

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): HIROI, ET AL.

Serial No.: Not assigned

Filed: November 9, 2001

For: PATTERN INSPECTION METHOD AND APPARATUS

Group: Not assigned

Examiner: Not assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 9, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 1, between lines 2 and 3 to insert:
--This is a divisional application of application serial no. _____, attorney docket no. 501.40830X00 (HIROI, et al.), filed November 8, 2001.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 1-15 without prejudice to the right to file such claims in a properly filed divisional application.

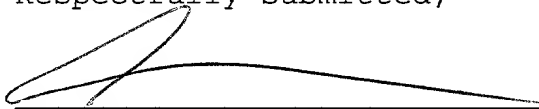
REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The specification has been amended to refer to the earlier filed patent application.

Entry of the preliminary amendments and examination of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.40830VX1) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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